**Plagiarism**

**Plagiarism is another serious violation of academic integrity. In simplest terms, this occurs if you represent *as your own work* any material that was obtained from another source, regardless how or where you acquired it.**

* Plagiarism can occur with *all* types of media—scholarly or non-academic, published or unpublished—written publications, Internet sources, oral presentations, illustrations, computer code, scientific data or analyses, music, art, and other forms of expression. (See [Section 11-802(d)](http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/app/gi09.appc03.html#sec-11-802-academic-dishonesty) of the *Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities* for the University's official definition of plagiarism.)
* Borrowed material from written works can include entire papers, one or more paragraphs, single phrases, or any other excerpts from a variety of sources such as books, journal articles, magazines, downloaded Internet documents, purchased papers from commercial writing services, papers obtained from other students (including homework assignments), etc.
* As a general rule, the use of any borrowed material results in plagiarism if the original source is not properly acknowledged. So you can be held accountable for plagiarizing material in either a final submission of an assignment *or* a draft that is being submitted to an instructor for review, comments, and/or approval.

**Using *verbatim* material (e.g., exact words) without proper attribution (or credit) constitutes the most blatant form of plagiarism. However, other types of material can be plagiarized as well, such as *ideas* drawn from an original source or even its *structure* (e.g., sentence construction or line of argument).**

* Improper or insufficient paraphrasing often accounts for this type of plagiarism. (See additional information on [paraphrasing](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_avoid_para.php).)

**Plagiarism can be committed intentionally *or* unintentionally.**

* Strictly speaking, any use of material from another source without proper attribution constitutes plagiarism, regardless why that occurred, and any such conduct violates accepted standards of academic integrity.
* Some students deliberately plagiarize, often rationalizing this misconduct with a variety of excuses: falling behind and succumbing to the pressures of meeting deadlines; feeling overworked and wishing to reduce their workloads; compensating for actual (or perceived) academic or language deficiencies; and/or justifying plagiarism on other grounds.
* But some students commit plagiarism without intending to do so, often stumbling into negligent plagiarism as a result of sloppy notetaking, insufficient paraphrasing, and/or ineffective proofreading. Those problems, however, neither justify nor excuse this breach of academic standards. By misunderstanding the meaning of plagiarism and/or failing to cite sources accurately, you are much more likely to commit this violation. Avoiding that outcome requires, at a minimum, a clear understanding of plagiarism *and* the appropriate techniques for scholarly attribution. (See related information on [paraphrasing](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_avoid_para.php); [notetaking and proofreading](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_avoid_note.php); and [acknowledging and citing sources](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_avoid_acknowledge.php).)

**By merely changing a few words or rearranging several words or sentences, you are *not* paraphrasing. Making minor revisions to borrowed text amounts to plagiarism.**

* Even if properly cited, a "paraphrase" that is too similar to the original source's wording and/or structure is, in fact, plagiarized. (See additional information on [paraphrasing](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_avoid_para.php).)

**Remember, your instructors should be able to clearly identify which materials (e.g., words and ideas) are your own *and* which originated with other sources.**

* That cannot be accomplished without proper attribution. You must give credit where it is due, acknowledging the sources of any borrowed passages, ideas, or other types of materials, and enclosing any verbatim excerpts with quotation marks (using block indentation for longer passages).

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